

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABIDJA 02357 101717Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
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FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7761
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

CONFIDENTIAL ABIDJAN 2357

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PPDC (CARTER, JIMMY - HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY,
FELIX), IV
SUBJECT: HOUPHOUET ON KENYA-SOMALI RELATIONS

REF: A) STATE 057496 B) STATE 047298 C) ABIDJAN 1690

1. I SAW FOREIGN MINISTER AKE THIS MORNING AND, DRAWING
ON REFTELS A AND B, INFORMED HIM OF OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH
KENYAN GOVERNMENT IN NAIROBI AND WASHINGTON ON DESIRABILITY
OF IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH SOMALIA AND RATHER NEGATIVE
KENYAN REACTION. I TOLD AKE THAT WE APPRECIATED THE
CONTINUING EFFORTS OF HOUPHOUET AND IVORIAN GOVERNMENT
IN THIS AREA AND SAID THAT WE WOULD CONTINUE OUR OWN.
I ADDED THAT IT WAS MY PERSONAL IMPRESSION FROM EXCHANGES
THAT HAD OCCURRED LAST WEEK BETWEEN SENIOR AMERICAN
OFFICIALS AND KENYAN DELEGATION THAT GOVERNMENT OF KENYA
WAS NOT RPT NOT INDIFFERENT TO THE THREAT THAT COULD BE POSED
TO KENYA FROM A MARXIST REGIME IN ETHIOPIA. THIS SUGGESTED
TO ME THAT IF KENYANS BECAME CONVINCED THAT SIAD BARRE WAS
SERIOUS IN HIS PROFESSIONS OF GOODWILL TOWARD KENYA, SOME
PROGRESS MIGHT EVENTUALLY BE MADE IN IMPROVING RELATIONS
BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. IT WAS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT FOR

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HISTORIC AS WELL AS PSYCHOLOGICAL REASONS, KENYAN
GOVERNMENT CONTINUED TO BE DEEPLY SUSPICIOUS OF SOMALI
INTENTIONS AND THAT IT WOULD TAKE TIME TO OVERCOME THESE
SUSPICIONS.

2. AKE SAID THAT HE APPRECIATED OUR WILLINGNESS TO KEEP
IVORIANS INFORMED OF CONTACTS WITH THE KENYANS AND THAT

HE WOULD CONVEY OUR ASSESSMENT TO HOUPHOUET. HE NOTED A RADIO REPORT THIS MORNING THAT SIAD BARRE HAD STATED PUBLICLY THAT REGULAR SOMALI UNITS COULD BE WITHDRAWN FROM THE OGADEN PRELIMINARY TO DIRECT TALKS WITH ETHIOPIA. HE HOPED THIS REPORT WAS ACCURATE SINCE IT MIGHT "IMPLIFY" THE SITUATION IN THE HORN AND ENABLE UNITED STATES TO PROVIDE MORE EFFECTIVE SUPPORT TO SOMALIA.

3. I TOLD AKE THAT WE WOULD STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH IVORIAN GOVERNMENT ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE HORN. OUR OBJECTIVES WERE SIMILAR AND WE CONTINUED TO BE KEENLY INTERESTED IN THE IVORIAN VIEW OF A RAPIDLY CHANGING SITUATION.

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